Extension of Four-Laning from Aluva to Thrissur

1347. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan for extension of four-laning from Aluva to Thrissur; and

(b) if so, the details and cost of the project and at what stage is the project at present and by when it is likely to be taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for 4 laning of National Highway No. 47 from Angamali to Aluva. Land acquisition estimate for this stretch has already been sanctioned in June, 99 and the acquisition of land is presently in progress. Construction of the project shall be done by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) after finalisation of the detailed project report submitted by the State Government and subject to availability ot funds.

The 4 laning of the remaining length of NH-47 from Aluva to Thrissur will be considered after the result of the prioritisation study for the entire North-South-East-West corridor, being carried out by NHAI are known. As such, the cost of the project and the construction schedule cannot be indicated at this stage.

Improvement of National Highways in Bihar

†1348. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to implement any specific scheme for improving National Highways in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Improvement of riding-quality in a length of 361.24 Kilometre on National Highways in Bihar at an estimated cost of Rs. 61.92 crore has been sanctioned under Special Repair Crash Programme with target date of completion as 31st March, 2000.

Heavy Traffic on Saraighat Bridge on Brahmaputra

1349. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has assessed the potential danger of routing all traffic to and from Guwahati, through the lone bridge at Saraighat on Brahmaputra in the event of major repair requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and alternative proposals if any, to combat such a situation.

(d) whether his Ministry has positively responded to the proposal of Assam Government for constructing another bridge to connect North and South Guwahati; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The bridge at Saraighat on river Brahmaputra is a Rail-cum-Road Bridge which is being maintained by the Railways. The maintenance of such bridges is generally carried out in half widths.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has no proposal for construction of another bridge to connect North and South Guwahati.